

THE ANTELOPE VALLEY ALIGNMENT

The Best Choice for California.

April 2004

THE ANTELOPE VALLEY ALIGNMENT

Route Choice is Critical for California

- ◆ To meet statewide and regional transportation needs
- ◆ To generate jobs and promote economic growth
- ◆ To practice financial and social responsibility

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California High Speed Rail Act Of 1996

§185010(i) -- ... build a high speed rail system [that] will generate jobs and economic growth...

§185030 -- ... that is fully integrated with the state's existing rail and bus network ...

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CHSRA Final Business Plan, June 2000 Letter to the Governor

“The recommendations in this business plan are economically feasible, publicly popular, and fiscally prudent...”

“The importance of the state’s transportation infrastructure to the economic vitality of the state cannot be under-estimated.”

“... the benefits to the state’s citizenry, economy, and environment are equally as important.”

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Best Choice for the California

- ◆ Better for Taxpayers
- ◆ Links Growing Population and Employment Centers
- ◆ Connects Next Major Airport
- ◆ Relieves Freeway Congestion
- ◆ Cheaper, Faster, Safer to Build
- ◆ Better for the Environment

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AV Route is Best Choice for Taxpayers

- ◆ More riders will use it if it goes where the people are
- ◆ AV route will generate higher revenue over the long term
- ◆ Serving more people is worth a few extra minutes of travel time

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Links Growing Population and Employment Centers

- ◆ Antelope Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation
- ◆ Its current population is projected to more than double to 750,000 by 2020
- ◆ AV supports a current workforce of over 260,000, also expected to double by 2020

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Links Major Industrial Centers

- ◆ AV is home to start-ups and national corporations
- ◆ AV has the most affordable industrial land in California
- ◆ California Business Magazine named the Antelope Valley the "Best Place to Do Business" in the state

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Links Next Major Airport

- ◆ Palmdale Airport is expected to become a major Southland airport
- ◆ AV route would connect Southland and San Joaquin Valley residents and businesses to Palmdale Airport

Meaning...

- ◆ Palmdale airport will help relieve congestion at other airports, including LAX

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Relieves Freeway Congestion

- ♦ Linking the Antelope Valley with downtown Los Angeles would relieve traffic congestion on the I-5 and SR-14
- ♦ Significantly alleviate a problematic truck and car bottleneck hazard

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Higher Ridership and Revenue

- ♦ I-5: Slightly Better SF-LA running time (<6% difference)
- ♦ AV: Access to 750,000 people, 260,000 jobs, and major transportation facilities (e.g., Palmdale Airport)

Means...

- ♦ Higher Ridership with the AV Alignment
- ♦ Higher Ridership → Higher Revenue → Greater Feasibility

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AV Route is Cheaper, Faster, and Safer to Build and Operate

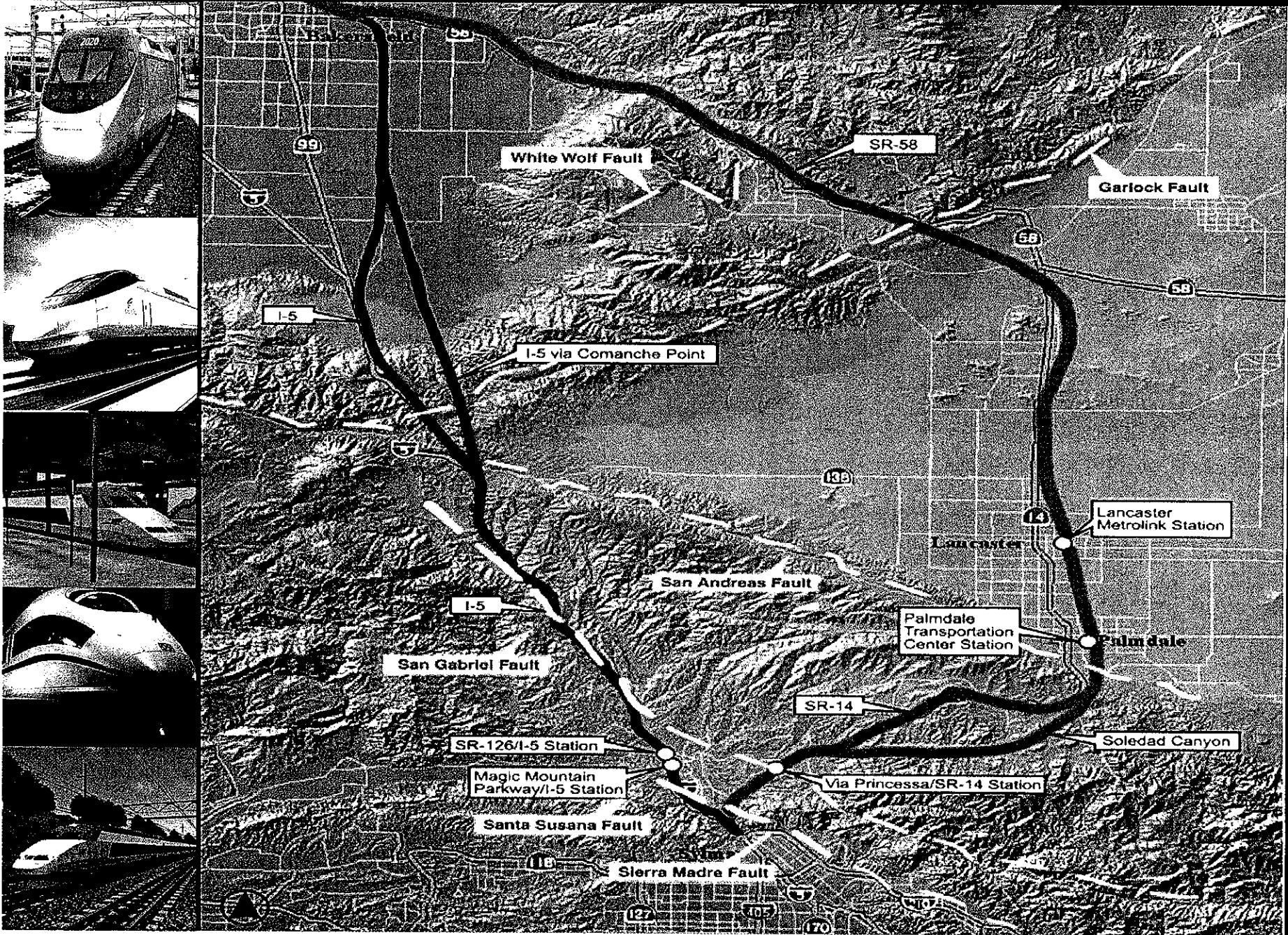
- ◆ Fewer miles of tunneling
- ◆ Better ground conditions

Means...

- ◆ Lower construction cost (\$775 million less)
- ◆ Lower risk of accidents, delay, and cost overruns (as much as 6 years faster)
- ◆ Lower earthquake danger for riders

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AV Route is Best Choice for the Environment

- ♦ Travel conditions
- ♦ Air quality
- ♦ Growth-induced impacts
- ♦ Farmland
- ♦ Parks and recreation
- ♦ Hydrology and water resources
- ♦ Wetlands and sensitive plant communities

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AV Route is Best Choice for the Environment

Travel Conditions

- ♦ Access to Antelope Valley population base
- ♦ Intermodal connectivity
- ♦ Regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are reduced

Air Quality

- ♦ Alignment differences are not addressed in EIR/EIS
- ♦ AV alignment results in regional air quality benefits (from reduced VMT and traffic congestion)

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AV Route is Best Choice for the Environment

Growth-Induced Impacts

- ◆ Concentrates urban growth in Los Angeles County
- ◆ Possible net reduction in new urbanized land statewide

Farmlands

- ◆ No direct loss of prime or unique farmlands
- ◆ Reduced long-term farmland conversion (as compared to the I-5/Grapevine)
- ◆ AV is route with *least potential impacts*

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AV Route is Best Choice for the Environment

Parks and Recreation

- ◆ Avoids major parks and Angeles National Forest
- ◆ Avoids most significant historical resources

Hydrology and Water Resources

- ◆ Avoids impacts to major streams and lakes
- ◆ Minimizes impact to floodplains and wetlands

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*AV Alignment Results in No Substantial Differences**

- ◆ Noise and vibration
- ◆ Land use and planning
- ◆ Environmental justice

Additional Review is Needed

- ◆ Biological resources
- ◆ Cultural resources
- ◆ Aesthetics and visual quality

*(when station area effects are discounted)

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Choose the Right Choice for California's Future

- ◆ Better for Taxpayers
- ◆ Links Growing Population and Employment Centers
- ◆ Connects Next Major Airport
- ◆ Relieves Freeway Congestion
- ◆ Cheaper, Faster, Safer to Build
- ◆ Better for the Environment

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California Supports the AV Route

- 
- ◆ Antelope Valley Board of Trade
 - ◆ Antelope Valley Regional Partnership
 - ◆ Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ Board of Supervisors Los Angeles County
 - ◆ Congressman Bill Thomas
 - ◆ Congressman Buck McKeon
 - ◆ Congressman Calvin Dooley
 - ◆ California City Economic Development Corporation
 - ◆ City of Arvin
 - ◆ City of Bakersfield
 - ◆ City of Chowchilla
 - ◆ City of Clovis
 - ◆ City of Delano
 - ◆ City of Fresno
 - ◆ City of Kerman
 - ◆ City of Lancaster
 - ◆ City of Los Angeles
 - ◆ City of Madera
 - ◆ City of Merced
 - ◆ City of Palmdale
 - ◆ City of Sanger
 - ◆ City of Taft
 - ◆ City of Tehachapi
 - ◆ City of Visalia
 - ◆ City of Wasco
 - ◆ County of Fresno
 - ◆ County of Kern
 - ◆ County of Kings
 - ◆ County of Los Angeles
 - ◆ County of Madera
 - ◆ County of Tulare
 - ◆ County of Stanislaus
 - ◆ Fresno Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ Kern Council of Governments
 - ◆ Kern Economic Development Corporation
 - ◆ Kern Transportation Foundation
 - ◆ LAWA (Los Angeles World Airports)
 - ◆ Lemoore Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ Lindsay Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 - ◆ Madera County Transportation Commission
 - ◆ Mayor of Los Angeles
 - ◆ Merced Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ Mike Antonovich, Supervisor
 - ◆ North County Transportation Coalition
 - ◆ Palmdale Association of Realtors
 - ◆ Palmdale Chamber of Commerce
 - ◆ San Joaquin County Council of Governments
 - ◆ San Joaquin Valley Supervisors Association
 - ◆ Southern California Association of Governments
 - ◆ Stanislaus Area Association of Governments
 - ◆ Steering Committee of Caltrans Rail Task Force
 - ◆ Taft Chamber of Commerce

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Antelope Valley Route...

- ◆ Cheaper, faster, safer to build
- ◆ Better for the environment
- ◆ Generate higher revenues and lower risk of cost overrun - better for taxpayers
- ◆ Relieves freeway congestion
- ◆ Links growing population and employment centers
- ◆ Connects next major airport

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I-5 Route ...

- ◆ Goes through unpopulated area, would not increase ridership
- ◆ Does not utilize existing infrastructure and would not take cars off the road nor alleviate traffic and air pollution
- ◆ Involves significant tunneling parallel to major earthquake fault lines, posing safety concerns and cost overruns

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